

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 31-32, and 34-41 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 15-30 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 31, and 32 have been amended to define more clearly and particularly the claimed invention.

New Claims 34-41 have been added to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-14, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, 11, 14, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Petrovich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,483). Claims 3, 7, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich, et al. Claims 4, 8, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich, et al., in view of Johansson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,100).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

In conventional electronic commerce systems and methods, the transmission of passwords can be monitored by others on the Internet.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, provides an information service providing method having a higher level of security than conventional electronic commerce systems and methods, in which passwords cannot be monitored by others on the Internet (e.g., see specification at page 2, lines 18-24).

In the electronic commerce using the electronic settlement system according to the exemplary aspects of the claimed invention, product orders from registered users are accepted through the Internet line. In contrast, when informing the registered users of passwords (e.g., secure information), the passwords are sent to only the portable telephones which belong to the registered users, by means of telephone communications through the switched subscriber lines. This reduces the possibility of external leakage of passwords, allowing commerce of higher security (e.g., see specification at page 19, lines 10-21).

For example, the exemplary aspects of the claimed invention use the Internet line when requests for onetime passwords or secret information such as the balance on an account are made from the information-terminal side. In contrast, the sending of secret information to the information-terminal side uses not only the Internet line, but also the switched subscriber lines which are high in confidentiality, during the process of transmission.

Thus, the exemplary aspects of the claimed invention are capable of providing high security information services (e.g., see specification at page 20, lines 25-28 and page 21, lines 1-6).

In an illustrative, non-limiting aspect of the invention, as defined for example, by independent claim 1, an information service providing method for providing an information service to a plurality of information terminals through a communication line, including receiving a request from the information terminal through a first communication line, and sending a reply to the request to the information terminal through at least one of the first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line, depending on a content of the request.

In another exemplary aspect of the invention, as defined for example, by independent claim 5, an information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, includes an information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line, and an information providing apparatus for sending the desired information to the information terminal through a second communication line in response to the request signal received through the first communication line.

In another exemplary aspect of the invention, as defined for example, by independent claim 9, an information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, including a first information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line, a second information terminal, and an information providing apparatus for sending the desired information to the second information terminal through a second communication line in response to the request signal received through the first communication line.

In another exemplary aspect of the invention, as defined for example, by independent claim 31, an information terminal for acquiring desired information through a communication line, wherein the information terminal is capable of sending a request signal for requesting the desired information to an information providing apparatus through a first communication line, and receiving the desired information sent from the information providing apparatus through a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line.

In another exemplary aspect of the invention, as defined for example, by independent claim 32, an information providing apparatus for providing desired information through a communication line, wherein the information providing apparatus, upon receiving a request signal for requesting the desired signal through a first communication line, is capable of sending the desired information through a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. §.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

Claims 1-14, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. These claims have been amended, above, to overcome this rejection.

Specifically, claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 31, and 32 have been amended to define more clearly the features of the claimed invention in conformance with U.S. Patent practice.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, 11, 14, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§102(e) as being anticipated by Petrovich.

The Examiner alleges that Petrovich discloses all of the features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that there are features of the claimed invention which clearly are not disclosed or suggested by Petrovich. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For example, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information service providing method for providing an information service to a plurality of information terminals through a communication line, including:

*receiving a request from said information terminal through a first communication line; and
sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line, depending on a content of said request (emphasis added).*

That is, in the exemplary aspects of the claimed method, a “request” is received from the information terminal through a first communication line. Then, a reply to the “request” is sent back to the information terminal through either the first communication line or a second communication line (i.e., a different communication line from the first communication line) based on the content of the “request”, not based on the content of the actual information being transmitted.

In comparison, the Examiner alleges that Petrovich discloses “*sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication*

line, depending on a content of said request", as claimed in independent claim 1, by disclosing that *"verification queries can include, for example, final price and confirmation of the user's order including price, delivery or pick-up, and desired time. While this information can be sent by voice to telephone 100, it can instead be sent in written form to display 72 of portable terminal 40, or to separate home computer 68, in order to save time for the user"* (see Petrovich at column 11, lines 18-25), as allegedly disclosed in Figure 1.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

First, Applicant submits that Petrovich does not disclose or suggest an information service providing method for providing an information service to a plurality of information terminals through a communication line, including *"receiving a request from said information terminal through a first communication line; and sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line, depending on a content of said request"* as claimed in claim 1.

Instead, Petrovich merely discloses that the information can be sent by voice to telephone 100, sent in written form to display 72 of portable terminal 40, or sent to a separate home computer 68, in order to save time for the user (see Petrovich at column 11, lines 18-25).

That is, Petrovich does not disclose or suggest that the information is sent by voice to the telephone, by written form to the display, or to a separate home computer depending on (i.e., based on) a content of a *"request"*, as claimed. Instead, Petrovich discloses (at best) that the information can be sent by voice or in written form based on the content of the actual information being sent (e.g., based on whether the information is

more suited to being reproduced audibly or in written form). Specifically, Petrovich discloses sending verification queries including, for example, final price and confirmation of the user's order by phone 100, or alternatively, in written form to the display 72 of portable terminal 40, or to separate home computer 68 (e.g., see Petrovich at column 11, lines 18-25).

Indeed, Applicant submits that the content of the information to be transmitted is not the same as (or comparable to) the content of the "*request*", as claimed. For example, whether the information can be sent by voice or in written form to be displayed in order to save the user time is not the same or comparable to the claimed content of the "*request*" itself (e.g., a request for a password, or other information to be prevented from being monitored by others).

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Petrovich clearly does not disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-4).

With respect to independent claim 5, Applicant notes that the Office Action does not appear to address the elements of this claim.

For example, claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, an information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, including:

an information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line; and

an information providing apparatus for sending said desired information to said information terminal through a second communication line in response to said request signal received through said first communication line (emphasis added).

That is, the information terminal sends the request signal to the information providing apparatus through the first communication line. On the other hand, the

information providing apparatus sends the desired information to the information terminal through a second (i.e., different) communication line in response to the request signal.

In comparison, Petrovich merely relates to a portable terminal which can be used in both a home of a user and a shopping establishment. However, Petrovich does not disclose or suggest sending a request signal for requesting desired information through from an information terminal through a first communication line, and on the other hand, sending the desired information back to the information terminal through a second communication line in response to the request signal received through the first communication line.

Instead, the system 10 of Petrovich, which includes a host computer 16 associated with a shopping establishment 14, merely communicates back and forth between the elements of the system using the same communication line. That is, even though Petrovich discloses several types of communication lines (e.g., wireless communication with the wireless multi-access point 18, connecting directly to a telephone jack of a phone system, etc.; see, e.g., Petrovich at column 5, lines 9-44 and 64-67, and column 6, lines 1-4), Petrovich does not disclose, suggest, or even contemplate sending a request through a first communication line and then sending a response through a second (i.e., different) communication line.

For example, Petrovich discloses that the portable terminal 40 can include a wireless transceiver 50 which is configured for wireless communication with the wireless multi-access point 18 when the user of the system takes the portable terminal 40 into the shopping establishment 14. That is, Petrovich merely discloses that, in this case, the portable terminal 40 can communicate wirelessly each way with the multi-access point 18.

Petrovich clearly does not, however, disclose or suggest or even contemplate sending a request through a first communication line and then sending a response through a second (i.e., different) communication line, in order to provide secure information service.

With respect to independent claims 9, 31, and 32, Applicant respectfully submits that Petrovich also does not disclose, suggest, or even contemplate the novel and unobvious features of the claimed invention, which are capable of providing high security information services (e.g., see specification at page 20, lines 25-28 and page 21, lines 1-6).

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Petrovich also clearly does not disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claims 5, 9, 31, and 32 (and dependent claims 6-8 and 10-14).

B. Claims 3, 7, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich.

As mentioned above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are not disclosed or suggested by Petrovich. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 3, 7, and 12 also are patentable over Petrovich at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively.

Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 7, and 12 and permit these claims to pass to immediate allowance.

C. Claims 4, 8, 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrovich in view of Johansson.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that there are features of the claimed invention which clearly are not disclosed or suggested by Petrovich or Johansson, either individually or in combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As mentioned above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are not disclosed or suggested by Petrovich.

On the other hand, Applicant respectfully submits that Johansson does not make up for the deficiencies of Petrovich.

For example, Johansson also does not disclose or suggest at least “*receiving a request from said information terminal through a first communication line; and sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through at least one of said first communication line and a second communication line, which is different from said first communication line, depending on a content of said request” as claimed in independent claim 1.*

Indeed, the Office Action does not even rely on Johansson for this feature. Instead, Johansson is relied on merely for teaching a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communication. Since Applicant believes that the deficiencies of Petrovich clearly are not disclosed or suggested by Johansson, Applicant has not reached the issues of motivation to combine these references or the combinability of these references. However, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to address these issues at a later time.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that there are features of claims 4, 8, 10, and 13 which clearly are not disclosed or suggested by Petrovich or Johansson, either individually or in combination.

Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 8, 10, and 13 and permit these claims to pass to immediate allowance.

IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Minor spelling errors have been corrected in the disclosure.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-14, 31, 32, and 34-41 all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.


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23

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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